

[17 December, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) whether the scanning machines provided at various airports meet the desired standards;

(f) if not, the reasons therefore and what steps are being taken to rectify the deficiencies and improve the standards; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years 93 high quality X-ray machines have been provided at the airports in India.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, keeping' in view the poor performance of some old machines, action is in hand to replace them and upgrade the system.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

#### **Closure of Jharsuguda Airstrip**

2674. SHRIMATI SUSHREE DEVI:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to close down the airstrip at Jharsuguda in Orissa; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether this will cause inconvenience to the passengers of Western Orissa, as this area has been surround with large private sector units; and

(c) whether it is feasible to renovate, upgrade or modernize the airstrip rather than closing it; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The airstrip at Jharsuguda in Orissa is lying unused for want of traffic demand.

(c) As and when the Airlines indicate their plans to operate flights to and from Jharsuguda airstrip, the airstrip can be made operational by providing requisite facilities.